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Patent  
9/27/02

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gary J. Pond

Attorney Docket No. 4285.16408-CIP

Serial No.: 09/654,201

Examiner: Cary E. O'Connor

Filed: 1 September 2000

Group Art Unit: 3732

Title: Nickel Titanium Needle

AMENDMENT B

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated 23 July 2002, please amend the above referenced application as follows:

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the Title to read:

Surgical Needle

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 16 and 17 remain as once amended.

## Claim 18 (amended)

A surgical needle assembly for endodontic procedures, said assembly comprising:

a needle having one end encapsulated and grippingly supported by a hub member  
and including a coextensive bore terminating at a distal end;

said needle further including a protruding hollow shaft portion of predetermined  
length;